

Closed-captions have become more available and are of higher quality than they were even just a few years ago, but significant improvements are needed. My 6 year old daughter is deaf and cannot use aural English to communicate (she uses ASL), and she is learning to understand that the captions represent another important language. Most older programs or movies still lack captions. Many news programs use taped interviews that are not captioned, even if they were recorded 10 or 12 or more hours previously. When captions are provided, they are often incomplete or of poor quality. Also, local weather forecasts and, especially, severe weather bulletins, are not captioned. A deaf person cannot learn fully what is occurring in his/her community, and will have great difficulty learning of life-threatening events, if the information is not captioned. After all, radio is not an option for a deaf person. Please require that closed captioning become more prevalent and is of higher quality so that deaf persons can take part in community life as an equal to a hearing person.